MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Quarterly Update
January 2025

COMING AND GOING
DISTRICT COORDINATOR VACANCY

Ashley McDaniel, coordinator for the Southwest portion of the state, left the program at the end of November to pursue other opportunities. The program will miss Ashley and we wish her well in her future endeavors! The program office is now looking to fill the vacancy. The position will be domiciled out of the MoDNR Southwest Regional Office in Springfield.

Ashley McDaniel and Family

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ANNUAL REPORT

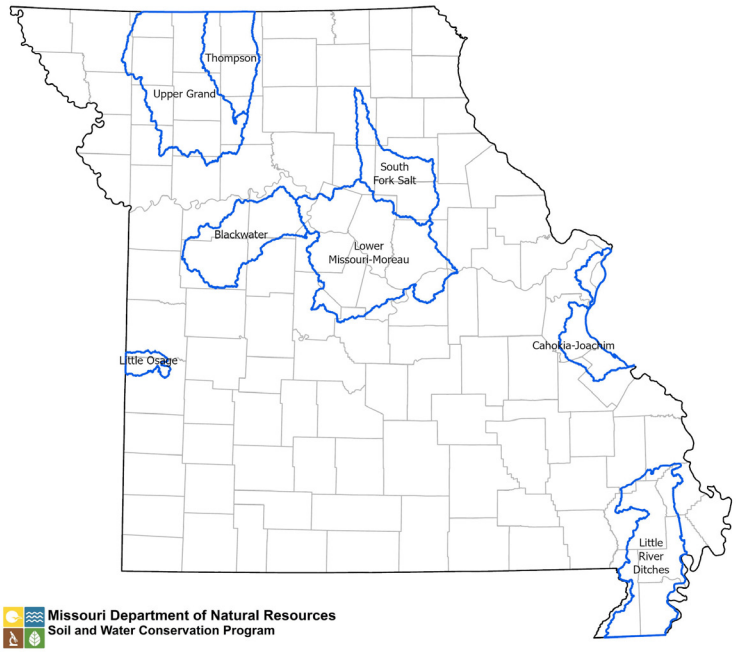
Calling all districts! This is your annual opportunity to share what you are most proud of as a district. It could be that you have spent more cost share as a district than you ever have. It could be a specific practice that you feel really shows off the lengths your district will go to help cooperators protect the natural resources of the county. Or, it could be the involvement and presence that your district has in your community (i.e. your district was able to reach 400 students and educate them on the benefits of soil and water conservation). Whatever it is, now is the time for you to share it with others. The program office will be bringing together all the information submitted to create a resource for not only district staff, but legislators and partner programs to learn about what the soil and water program does as well as to provide a directory of staff. Please be responsive to requests for information as this effort is going to be a team effort.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM RCPP

The Soil and Water Program is currently the lead on two Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP's).

The first is the Missouri Targeted Conservation project. The goal of this project is to identify areas within targeted watersheds where conservation practices can provide the most cost-effective loss reductions for sediment, nutrients and pathogens entering into Missouri's water bodies. The Blackwater, Cahokia-Joachim, South Fork Salt, Little Osage, Thompson, Upper Grand, Little River Ditches and Lower Missouri-Moreau watersheds have been identified as the Missouri focus areas.

MO Targeted Watersheds RCPP



The second RCPP is the Increasing On-Farm Resilience to Drought and Flood. The project's goal to help livestock producers in Missouri build resiliency to weather extremes through implementation of carefully planned best management practices. Assistance will be available to mitigate future drought and flood events with minimal impact to landowner operations, while also helping to mitigate future climate-related effects through climate-smart conservation practice implementation. All Missouri farmers and ranchers located in Benton, Boone, Callaway, Cole, Cooper, Henry, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Pettis and Saline counties are eligible to apply.

MissouriBUYS
POWERED BY MOVERS

Payment to cooperators is going to look different in the very near future. The State of Missouri is moving from its current vendor payment system to a new system beginning FY26, which begins July 1, 2025. It is vital that if a landowner wishes to receive payment from participating in the cost-share program they must register with the Missouri Vital Enterprise Resource System, also known as MOVERS. MissouriBUYS, powered by MOVERS, will be the **only** way that cooperators can receive payment once the new fiscal year begins. If you have questions regarding this move please reach out to your coordinator to resolve any issues early and ensure that cooperators receive payment. Instructions on registering in the new accounting system can be located on the intranet under memo 008-2025. A FAQ will be forthcoming for districts to help answer reoccurring questions.

MAPPING NOTES

Looking ahead to the new FY26 please make note that specifically for cover crops, the note that FSA acres were used for acres served will no longer be accepted. Districts must use the acres served from the MoDNR mapping tool for payment approval. This is due to the ability to move information from CD to the mapping tool, making the acres served consistent between the programs. Please contact your district coordinator with any questions.

HARRISON COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

The Harrison County SWCD had a very productive Fiscal Year 2024 with several minor challenges along the way. The district had 128 cost-share contracts which claimed $1,218,725.59 in cost-share dollars on 5,252.67 acres. The 128 contracts were for the following practices and acres served:

- 54 cover crops – 3,723 acres
- 45 water impoundment reservoirs – 1054.2 acres
- 12 terrace systems with tile - 259.68 acres
- 7 permanent vegetative cover establishments – 124.7 acres
- 3 livestock exclusions – 4.09 acres
- 2 sod waterways – 90.4 acres
- 2 diversions – 27 acres
- 1 sediment retention control structure – 34.6 acres
- 1 filter strip – 26 acres• 1 field border – which was a reseeding

The district offers 28 conservation practices to county landowners, however, some are never utilized.

Also have available are three no-till drills, a big bale mulcher, a Brillion Pulverizer, cover crop soil test rings and burn equipment for landowners to rent. The drills were used on a total of 1,232 acres, the pulverizer was used on 217 acres, and the mulcher was used by 16 landowners on 19.5 acres during FY24.

The district frequently measures drainage areas for road tubes for the county road and bridge crews.

Harrison County Staff

District staff has assisted with training and support to other SWCD staff members in Daviess, Gentry, Grundy, Mercer and Caldwell counties.

The district staff helped with facilitating a Beef Feeding Barn Informational Meeting and one employee did a presentation at a Cattlemen's Association Meeting.

Challenges have included:
A new six-part folder filing system to incorporate: farm plan, six notes, engineering paperwork, designs, plat map, cooperator authorization, copies of landowner bills, FSA 156 EZ and cost-share paperwork. This was a reluctant change to start with, but was quickly accepted and highly valued in the end.

Through NRCS hiring, we lost the FOSA Technician but we were able to hire a new FOSA Technician with some technical training and experience, increasing his productive time.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Program Office Closed for Christmas: 12/25/2024

Program Office Closed for New Years Day: 1/1/2025